Abolition of Octroi

457. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to abolish octroi in all the Union Territories;

(b) whether any State Government has agreed to abolish the octroi, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what is Government's reaction to the State Government's stand on the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The Central Government have decided to abolish octroi in all the Union Territories except Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Central Government have taken up the matter with the concerned State Governments to abolish octroi.

Asian Development Bank Loan for Paradip Port

458. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Asian Development Bank has sanctioned a loan of $285 million for Paradip Port; and

(b) if so, the details of work proposed to be taken at Paradip Port or elsewhere?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Asian Development Bank has approved a loan of $285 million for the development of coal handling facilities at Paradip and Ennore near Madras.

(b) The main components of work proposed to be taken up at Paradip are as follows.

(i) Construction of two berths for ships upto 65,000 DWT;

(ii) Capital dredging;

(iii) Civil works on shore, including utilities and amenities;

(iv) Floating craft for port operations;

(v) Supply and installation of coal handling equipment.

It is proposed to develop a new port at Ennore near Madras and the main components of works are as follows:

(i) Construction of two berths for ships upto 65,000 DWT;

(ii) Capital dredging of approach channel and harbour basin;

(iii) Construction of two breakwaters;

(iv) Civil works onshore including coastal protection, utilities and amenities;

(v) Floating craft for port operations; and

(vi) Navigational aids.

Declaration of State Highways as National Highways in Maharashtra

459. SHRI SHIVAJIRAO GIRIDHAR PATIL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has requested for declaration of some of the State

(b) whether it is a fact that this matter has been under discussion since 1986; and

(c) if so, what is the status thereof at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Like Maharashtra, various other States have also been making representations to the Central Government from time to time for declaring new National Highways. However, on account of financial stringency and other priority considerations, new National Highways could not be declared in a number of States including Maharashtra. Even during the 8th Plan, due to meagre allocation of funds, it may be difficult to add new roads to the National Highway network unless the allotments for Central Sector Road Programme are augmented at the stage of mid-term review of the Plan.

By-Pass on National Highway No. 7 at Jabalpur

460. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in connection with the projected construction of a bypass on National Highway No. 7 at Jabalpur (MP);

(b) what was the original estimated cost thereof and the cost escalation, if any, due to the delay in implementation thereof; and

(c) the details of fatal and other serious accidents reported on the section of this Highway within Jabalpur during 1991 and 1992?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Out of 22.5 Kms length of Jabalpur Bypass, construction of the first 5.9 Km section constituting the high level acquaduct-cum-road-bridge across Narmada River at Tilwaraghat and its approaches, sanctioned in 1984-85 for Rs. 4.23 crores, has been in progress and is likely to be completed by June, 1993. The estimate for the construction of the remaining length of 16.6 Kms has been sanctioned in September, 1992 for Rs. 12.03 crores and implementation of this portion is yet to start.

(b) Total cost of the project as sanctioned is Rs. 16.26 crores. Escalation in cost will be known after the bypass has been completed and revised estimates prepared.

(c) As reported by the State Government, 24 fatal and 6 serious accidents took place within Jabalpur during 1991 and 1992.

Private Investment in Road Building and Construction Activities

461. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a 2-days Fourth National Seminar on Road Research and its utilisation was held in Delhi around September 20, 1992.

(b) whether the question of private investment in road building and